

in Grand Forks and lost their home in the flood. That's why both Barb and Lori mobilized the city of Box Elder, SD and collected clothing, cleaning supplies, food, and toys for flood victims in Grand Forks. Lori and Barb's relief effort included the mayor of Box Elder, Dave Kinser, raising \$200 in donations for a Grand Forks resident who lost everything. Students from area high schools and elementary schools also helped by collecting cleaning supplies and food items.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of people like Lori Russell and Barb Navriski illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. Lori Russell and Barb Navriski illustrate how two individuals can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF THE ASSISTANCE OF LEO FLYNN DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Leo Flynn in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood. Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000 residents of Watertown, SD to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The city of Bruce, SD was completely underwater when record low temperatures turned swollen streams into sheets of ice. Heavy winter snows forced Big Stone Lake, along the South Dakota and Minnesota border, to 9 feet above flood level. The rising waters drove 40 families from their homes and caused vast amounts of damage.

Many South Dakota communities prepared for the floods by constructing makeshift dikes around homes and neighborhoods. While some of these barriers held up against the rising

water, a number of communities saw their defenses washed away in the record levels of flooding. The costs of preparing for, and ultimately cleaning up after, these natural disasters strained municipal budgets and threatened other flood recovery programs. Milbank attorney Leo Flynn came to the assistance of a number of counties and towns by donating \$280,000 to help local governments cover the costs of blizzards and flooding.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness firsthand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of individuals like Leo Flynn illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair impacted communities. Leo Flynn illustrates how the actions of an individual can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking him for his selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF GATEWAY 2000'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the individuals of Gateway 2000 of North Sioux City, SD in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

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The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks, ND, and 10,000 residents of East Grand Forks, MN, were forced to leave their homes and businesses as the Red River overwhelmed their cities in April. The devastation was astounding; an entire city underwater and a fire that gutted a majority of Grand Forks' downtown. Residents of both cities recently were allowed to return to what is left of their homes, and the long and difficult process of rebuilding shattered lives is just beginning.

The individuals of Gateway 2000 donated 17 computers to Grand Forks to assist city hall in resuming everyday operations. These computers enabled the mayor and Grand Forks officials to coordinate flood relief efforts throughout the disaster.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. The selfless actions of the individuals from Gateway 2000 illustrate the resolve within South Dakotans to help our neighbors in times of trouble.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair Grand Forks and other impacted communities. These individuals illustrate how the actions of a community can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster, and I ask you to join me in thanking them for their selfless efforts.●

RECOGNITION OF KEVN TELEVISION'S ASSISTANCE DURING THE FLOODS OF 1997

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of individuals at KEVN-TV in Rapid City, SD, in ongoing flood recovery efforts in the Dakotas.

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